

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, and 14-29 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 10, 18, 20, and 21 have been amended, claims 3, 5, 11, and 13 have been canceled, and new claims 24-29 have been added to recite additional features of the embodiments disclosed in the specification.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 18-21, and 23 were rejected for being anticipated by the Inubushi publication. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites that “a predetermined air gap is maintained between an upper surface of the first supporting rib and a lower surface of the upper cover.” The Inubushi publication does not teach or suggest these features.

The Inubushi publication discloses a mobile terminal having a display protecting member 8 and 9 formed between an upper cover 1 and a lower cover. In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner indicated that the supporting rib of claim 1 corresponds to rib 9 of Inubushi. However, none of the figures of the Inubushi publication show an air gap between an upper surface of rib 9 and a lower surface of cover 1 as required by claim 1.

In fact, Figures 2-4 of Inubushi show the exact opposite, i.e., that the upper surface of rib 9 is always in contact with the upper cover 1. The Inubushi specification makes these differences even clearer: “. . . rib 9 formed so as to protrude from a holder 8 has a forward end high enough to reach a position in contact with a case 1.” See column 4, lines 29-31, and column 5, lines 53-57, which discloses that rib 9 bears the force of exertion when stress is applied to the cover. However, even here Inubushi makes clear that rib 9 is always in contact with upper cover 1.

To further distinguish Inubushi, claim 1 has been amended to recite that “the lower surface of the upper cover deflects through the air gap when an external impact is imposed on the upper cover, the upper surface of the first supporting rib arranged to contact the lower surface of the deflecting upper cover to prevent the lower surface of the deflecting upper cover from contacting the display module.” These features are also not disclosed by the Inubushi publication.

Because Inubushi does not disclose all the features of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Inubushi does not anticipate this claim. Furtherance of claim 1 and its dependent claims to allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 18 recites that “the display protecting mechanism is configured to be installed in a lower cover of the mobile terminal such that a predetermined clearance in the form of a first air gap is formed between an upper surface of the supporting rib and a lower surface of an upper cover of the mobile terminal.” These features are not disclosed by the Inubushi publication.

Claim 21 recites that “the display protecting mechanism is configured to be installed in a lower cover of the mobile terminal such that a predetermined clearance in the form of a first air gap is formed between an upper surface of the supporting rib and a lower surface of an upper cover of the mobile terminal.” As noted above, the Inubushi publication does not disclose these features. Applicants therefore submit that claim 21 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claims 7, 8, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of Inubushi taken in combination with other features of which the Examiner has taken Official Notice. Applicants submit that claims 7, 8, and 22 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claims 1 and 18, which are distinguishable for the reasons noted above.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 14-16, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Inubushi-Shimazaki combination. Applicants traverse these rejections on grounds that the Shimazaki publication does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from the Inubushi publication, many of which are also recited in independent claim 10. For example, claim 10 recites that “a predetermined clearance in the form of a first air gap is formed between an upper surface of the supporting rib and a lower surface of the first cover.” These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

New claims 24-29 have been added to further define claim 1.

Claim 24 recites that “the display protecting member does not contact any portion of the upper cover.” (See, for example, Figures 5 and 6 of the application drawings which show that member 60 does not make contact with any portion of upper cover 50). These features are not taught or suggested by Inubushi. In fact, Inubushi teaches away from these features by showing that, at all times, the display protecting member formed by holder 8 and rib 9 contact the upper cover 1 in two different places. The Shimazaki publication also fails to teach or suggest these features.

Claim 25 recites the additional features of “a second supporting rib extending from the lower cover” and that “the second supporting rib has a surface that is substantially parallel to and in contact with a surface of the first supporting rib.” (See, for example, Figures 5 and 6 for support where the second rib is shown extending from the lower cover 52 at a position that is adjacent and in contact with the first rib 78.) These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, e.g., the Inubushi rib 9 does not contact any portion of the lower cover, which was indicated to be shown in Figure 1 of Inubushi.

Claim 26 recites that “the display module is secured to the display protecting member based on a friction fit between the first and second supporting ribs.” (These features are evident from the in-contact fit that exists between the first and second ribs of the claimed invention, as shown in Figure 6 of the application drawings). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Claim 27 recites that “the first supporting rib has a thickness that is substantially equal to or less than a thickness of the second supporting rib.” (See, for example, Figure 6 of the application drawings where rib 78 has a thickness equal to or less than the second rib extending from lower cover 52). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Claim 28 recites that “the display protecting member has a lower surface substantially perpendicular to the first supporting rib and contacting the lower cover.” (See, for example, Figure 6 of the application drawings). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited

references, e.g., in Inubushi no part of rib 9 contacts the lower cover. Rather, it only contacts printed circuit board 10.

Claim 29 recites that “the display protecting member includes an aperture to allow for viewing of a first screen of a display module through an interior surface of a folder, said screen not viewable when the folder is in a closed position.” (See, for example, reference numeral 76 in Figure 4 of the application drawings). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references. The Inubushi does not have such an aperture. This is evident from Figure 2 which is taken along Section Line C-C of Figure 1. Here, Inubushi shows that the section line is direct in line with the display screen 2 and that (in Figure 2) holder 8 solidly projects all the way underneath this display screen. Thus, holder 8 does not include the aperture recited in claim 29.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and

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please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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